NEW RELEASE VHS AND DVD, PLUS VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

WHAT'S HOT ON VIDEO

FREE

DECEMBER 2004

Classic films come to life on DVD

THANDIE NEWTON discusses heart-throb Vin Diesel

GREAT PRIZES:
- GARFIELD: THE MOVIE
- KING ARTHUR
- HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

On the run again

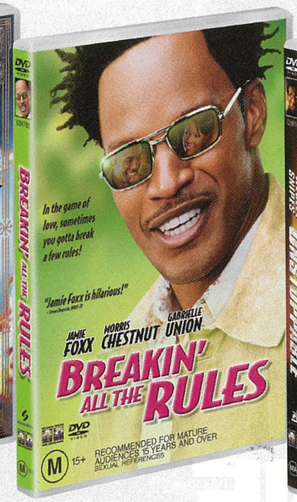
PLUS

The Stepford Wives, Hellboy, The Whole Ten Yards, Fahrenheit 9/11 and The Chronicles Of Riddick

AVRA
Australian Video Retailers Association Ltd.

ONE *HELLUVA* LINE UP OF MOVIES THIS DECEMBER!

AVAILABLE ON DVD & VIDEO DECEMBER 8



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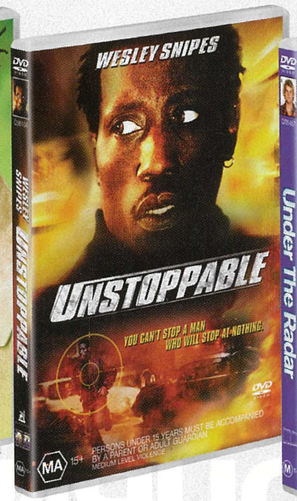

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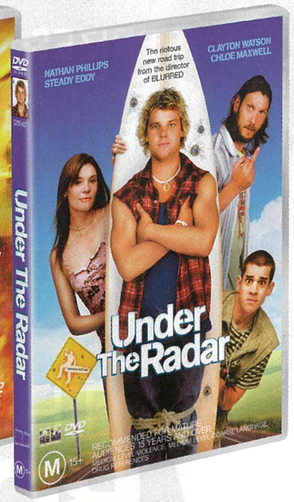

AVAILABLE ON DVD & VIDEO DECEMBER 15

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this month

DECEMBER 2004

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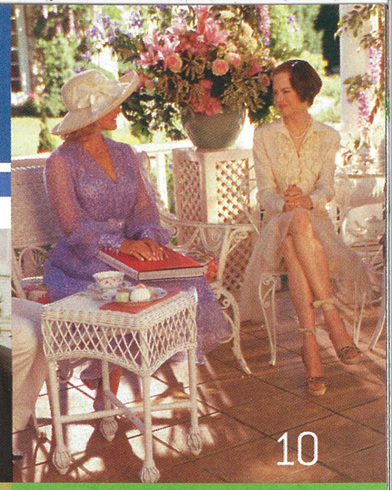

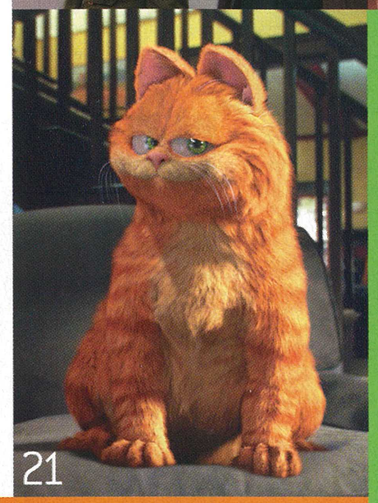

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WHAT'S HOT...

Can you believe that Christmas is only a few weeks away? As the sunshine and balmy nights of summer settle in, our household will be looking forward to watching endless days of cricket, interspersed with a dip at the beach, and a few movies here and there.

It seems that comedy is very much on the menu this summer, with a wide selection of new releases including the hilarious remake of the '70s classic *The Stepford Wives*. Comic strip feline, Garfield makes his debut, and young Harry Potter is back wielding some more magic. And not to forget Bruce Willis and Matthew Perry in the impressive sequel of *The Whole Ten Yards*.

If comedy doesn't boil your kettle, then December also appears to be the 'action' month of the year, with the release of the much-anticipated *The Bourne Supremacy, The Chronicles Of Riddick, King Arthur* and the action-thriller *Unstoppable*. If you enjoyed digging your teeth into *Super Size Me* last month, then you might also enjoy this month's documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11*. Your local video store will be able to indulge your every Christmas wish this summer. Until next month, enjoy a safe and merry Christmas. – Amanda

AVRA
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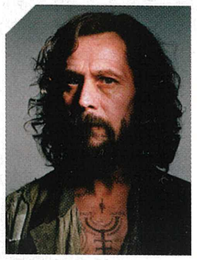
GOSSIP COLUMNIST KAREN HEINRICH BRINGS YOU THE HOLLYWOOD NEWS.

A POWERFUL FORCE

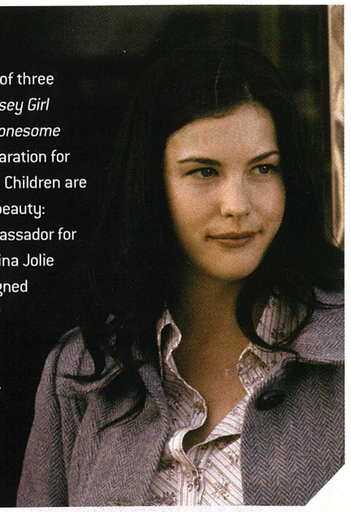
Bowling For Columbine won him an Academy Award and *Fahrenheit 9/11* (out this month on video) has taken more than $US200 million in box-office receipts worldwide – unprecedented for a documentary. But the crusading filmmaker Michael Moore isn't resting on his laurels yet. He's hard at work on *Sicko*, a new documentary that will focus on America's malfunctioning health care system, examining it through an inspection of mental health care. Apparently the idea for *Sicko* stemmed from a segment Moore did on his TV show *The Awful Truth*, in which he staged a mock funeral at a health maintenance organisation (HMO) for a patient who was denied a life-saving organ transplant. The HMO relented and paid for the transplant. Moore's clout, it would seem, is assured: he got a mention in the American magazine *Entertainment Weekly*'s annual power feature for 2004.



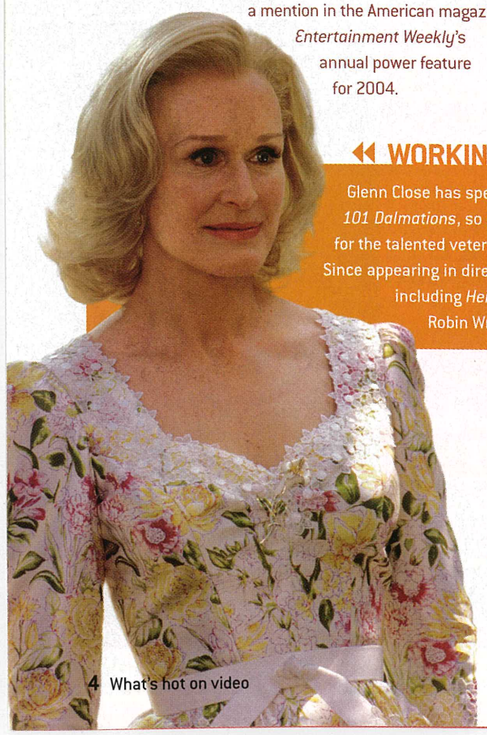
Child's play

Gary Oldman's two young sons Gulliver and Charlie must have been overjoyed when he took a part in *Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban* (released this month on video). In which case, they will also be pleased to see their dad in the upcoming *Batman Begins* and *Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire*. However, the boys would have been disappointed that their British-born dad pulled out of the next *Star Wars* movie. Having been hand-picked by George Lucas to play the voice of evil Jedi knight killer General Grievous in *Star Wars: Revenge Of The Sith*, Oldman quit the production because it was made outside the Screen Actor's Guild rules. He might rue that decision, given that he is facing a massive tax bill in the US. Court papers filed in Los Angeles claim he has paid only $US297 in tax towards a bill of $US288,000.

Mum's the word



Fresh from the back-to-back filming of three *Lord Of The Rings* films as well as *Jersey Girl* (released on video this month) and *Lonesome Jim*, Liv Tyler is winding down in preparation for the imminent arrival of her first child. Children are close to the heart of the 27-year-old beauty: Tyler was inspired to become an ambassador for the children's charity Unicef by Angelina Jolie and her idol Audrey Hepburn. Tyler signed to work as a National Ambassador for the charity's American fund after meeting the late Hepburn's son at a charity fundraiser. Tyler, the daughter of Aerosmith rocker Steven, married her long-time love Royston Langdon in March 2003.



WORKING GIRL

Glenn Close has specialised in portraying unhinged characters in films such as *Fatal Attraction* and *101 Dalmations*, so *The Stepford Wives* (released this month on video) was surely not too much of a stretch for the talented veteran. A notoriously hard-working actor, Close has made 19 films in the past five years. Since appearing in director Frank Oz's remake of the 1975 cult classic, Close has been filming four others, including *Heights*, *Nine Lives* (nine vignettes starring actors such Kathy Baker, Holly Hunter and Robin Wright Penn), *Chumscrubber* and *Paint*.

Patriotic to the last

Jim Carrey, one of Canada's favourite sons and the star of *Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind* (out this month on video), has pledged allegiance to Uncle Sam. The rubber-faced star became an American citizen the very same week he was a pallbearer at the funeral of the legendary comedian Rodney Dangerfield. Following in the footsteps of fellow Canadian Pamela Anderson, Carrey will not, however, be handing over his old passport. Quoted on imdb.com, Carrey said: "I have no intention of giving up my Canadian heritage, and all those who loved and supported me. My upbringing in Canada made me the person I am. I will always be proud to be a Canadian."

BRUCE WILLIS

MATTHEW PERRY

The Whole Ten Yards

The Smash Hit Sequel To The Whole Nine Yards

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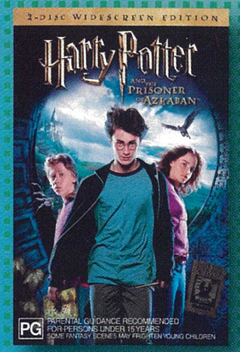
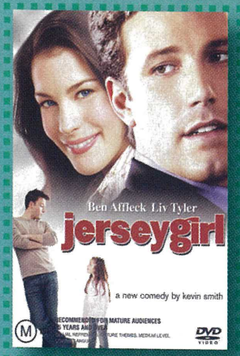
www.mgm.com

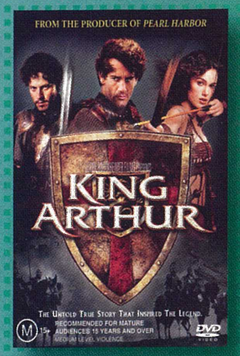
top10 new releases



HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN
December 1

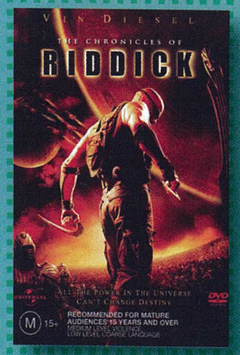


JERSEY GIRL
December 1

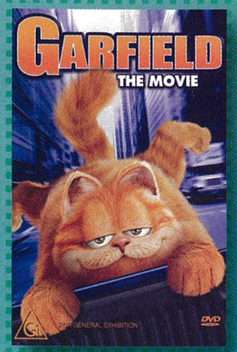


KING ARTHUR
December 1

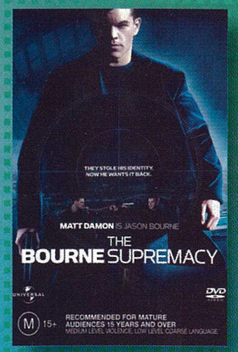
THE STEPFORD WIVES
December 1



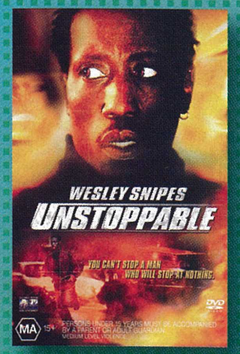
THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK
December 8



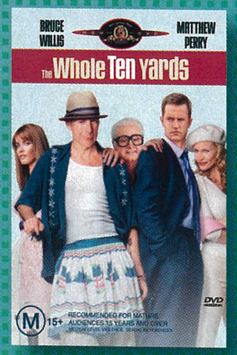
GARFIELD: THE MOVIE
December 13



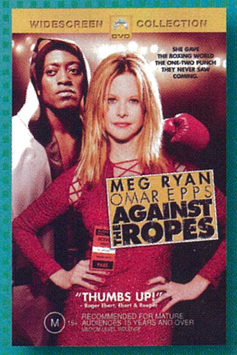
THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
December 15



UNSTOPPABLE
December 15



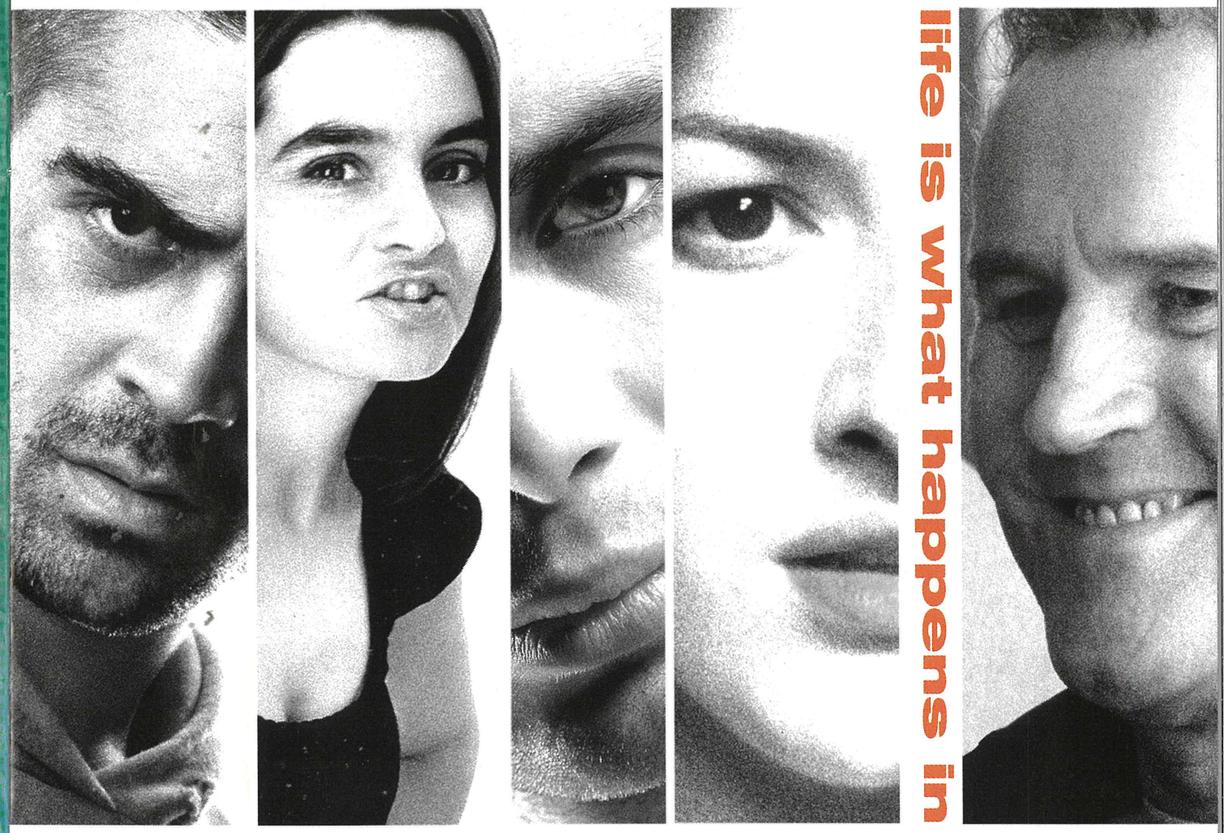
THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
December 22



AGAINST THE ROPES
December 23

"The bastard child of TRAINSPOTTING and LOVE ACTUALLY"
- Ain't it Cool Movie News

Colin FARRELL | Shirley HENDERSON | Kelly MACDONALD | Colm MEANEY | Cillian MURPHY



life is what happens in between

Small town delinquents, shady cops,
pretty good girls and very, very, bad boys . . .

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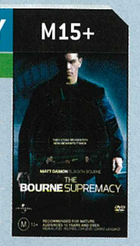
THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 15



Director: Paul Greengrass

Stars: Matt Damon, Joan Allen, Brian Cox, Julia Stiles

Duration: 109 minutes

Website: http://www.thebournesupremacy.com

"Nothing," according to the great philosopher Montaigne, "fixes a thing so intensely in the memory as the wish to forget it." Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) must surely relate. Two years after the adaptation of novelist Robert Ludlum's *The Bourne Identity*, the tormented CIA super agent is back, baited out of hiding in Goa, India with his girlfriend Marie (Franka Potente). An amnesiac, Bourne suffers flashbacks to his life as a former CIA hitman – a time that he desperately wants to forget. But now, the man who was once hunter has become the hunted. Bourne's memory may be shot to smithereens but his survival skills are as sharp as ever. He's still a fighter and he still has fighter's instincts. Having been framed for the murder of two CIA agents, Bourne survives an attempt on his life by a rival assassin, triggering a global cat-and-mouse chase. But it won't be easy, for either Bourne or his pursuers, including CIA field agent Nicky (Julia Stiles). However, Bourne is hell bent on clearing his name of a crime he didn't commit, and bringing down his crooked bosses, especially Ward Abbott (Brian Cox) who is determined to have Bourne killed. But first they must catch him – a quest only slightly more difficult than mastering quantum physics via a correspondence course.

The film's numerous high-speed car chases lend *The Bourne Supremacy* the look and feel of old-school action/thrillers such as *The French Connection*. Director Paul Greengrass (*Bloody Sunday*) almost exclusively uses hand-held cameras, giving the film gritty and voyeuristic qualities. *The Bourne Supremacy* is a white-knuckle ride into the world of someone with no identity, no clear memories, no family and no friends. Damon does not skip a beat in this reprisal of what might one day become his trademark role. Channelling the unhinged quality of his character in *The Talented Mr Ripley*, Damon sees to it that Bourne is just like an Energiser bunny: until they remove his life force, he'll never stop moving. Certainly not until a mooted third *Bourne* movie is made, which Damon has said he will do as long as the script is up to scratch. Quoted on imdb.com, Damon said: "It's hard, because the character, I don't know personally where to go with it. Perhaps there's a rocket scientist that could work it out."

INSIDER

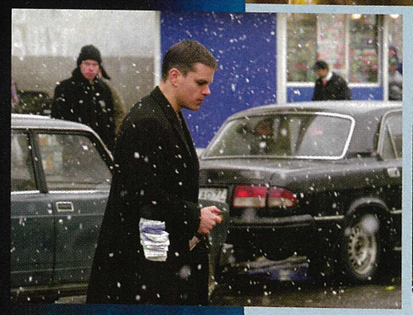
While on location in Berlin for the filming of *The Bourne Supremacy*, Matt Damon started a bowling league.

DVD VIDEO SPECIAL FEATURES

Explosive deleted scenes

Fight training & stunt moves

Paul Greengrass commentary



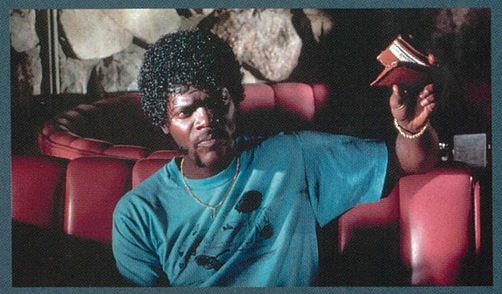
A white-knuckle ride: Matt Damon as Jason Bourne takes viewers from Goa to Naples to Berlin to Moscow as he eludes and battles one assassin after another.

HITMEN WITH HEART

CINEMA ABOUNDS WITH RUTHLESS ASSASSINS WHO EVENTUALLY REALISE THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS. AND THEY GET ALL THE BEST LINES...

PULP FICTION (1994)

Samuel L Jackson delivers the performance of his career as Jules Winnfield, a hitman who spares someone's life as he tells them: "The truth is you're the weak. And I'm the tyranny of evil men. But I'm tryin', Ringo. I'm tryin' real hard to be a shepherd."

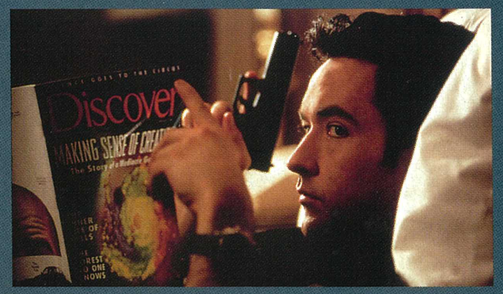


THE PROFESSIONAL (1994)

Jean Reno is Leon, a hitman who is redeemed by his quasi-adoption of a 12-year-girl Mathilda (Natalie Portman). When the girl tells Leon she doesn't want to lose him, he replies: "You're not going to lose me. You've given me a taste for life. I wanna be happy. Sleep in a bed, have roots. And you'll never be alone again, Mathilda."

GROSSE POINTE BLANK (1997)

John Cusack is a hitman who develops a conscience in this black comedy. On the advice of his therapist, he attends his 10-year high school reunion. "What am I gonna say?" Martin asks his therapist. 'I killed the president of Paraguay – how have you been?'"



JERSEY GIRL

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 1

Director: Kevin Smith

Stars: Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler, Raquel Castro

Duration: 98 minutes

Website: http://www.jerseygirl-movie.com

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck give it one last go in *Jersey Girl*

With such darkly comic films as *Clerks*, *Mallrats* and *Dogma* under his writer-director belt, the feel-good romantic-comedy genre is unchartered territory for Kevin Smith. But he negotiates it smartly, preventing *Jersey Girl* from becoming trite and instead imbuing it with laughs. Ben Affleck does well as Ollie Trinke, a high-powered music publicist whose wife (Jennifer Lopez) dies, leaving him to raise their daughter Gertie (Raquel Castro) with only the help of his widowed father. Ten-year-old newcomer Castro is well cast as the precocious Gertie, and Liv Tyler is excellent as Maya, Trinke's love interest.

INSIDER

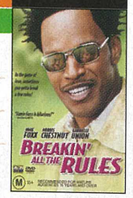
New Jersey-born writer-director Kevin Smith based the film on his experiences with daughter Harley Quinn, who is now five years old.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

BREAKIN' ALL THE RULES

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 8



Director: Daniel Taplitz

Stars: Jamie Foxx, Gabrielle Union, Peter MacNicol

Duration: 82 minutes

Website: http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/breakinalltherules/

A charming update on the battle of the sexes, *Breakin' All The Rules* is a light and modern look at the jungle that is the dating game. Jamie Foxx steals the show as Quincy Watson, who writes a best-selling 'break-up handbook' for men after he is unceremoniously dumped by his fiancée. Watson is reluctant to fall in love again but a chance meeting with Nicky (Gabrielle Union) makes him willing to take a second chance. The subplots are equally entertaining, especially one featuring *Ally McBeal*'s Peter MacNicol as a hen-pecked businessman unable to break up with his gold-digging girlfriend (Jennifer Esposito).

INSIDER

Jamie Foxx was born in Texas as Eric Bishop.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

Gabrielle Union and Jamie Foxx try their luck at love

Stepford: transforming career women to subservient housewives

THE STEPFORD WIVES

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 1

Director: Frank Oz

Stars: Nicole Kidman, Matthew Broderick, Bette Midler

Duration: 89 minutes

Website: http://www.stepfordwivesmovie.com

A star-studded *The Stepford Wives* is a weird and wonderful trip into a postcard-perfect postcode inhabited by subservient wives and their happy husbands. So it comes as no surprise, then, that this remake of the 1975 cult classic was the brainchild of Frank Oz, the voice behind Muppet favourites Miss Piggy and Fozzie Bear. Oz's Stepford is a small, idyllic town in Connecticut, where most of the females have been transformed from career women into obedient, 1950s-style housewives. Nicole Kidman plays Joanna, Stepford's newest arrival, and she is ably supported by the comic contributions of Bette Midler and Glenn Close.

INSIDER

Siblings John and Joan Cusack were originally cast in the film, but they had to drop out for family reasons.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

THE WHOLE TEN YARDS

M15+

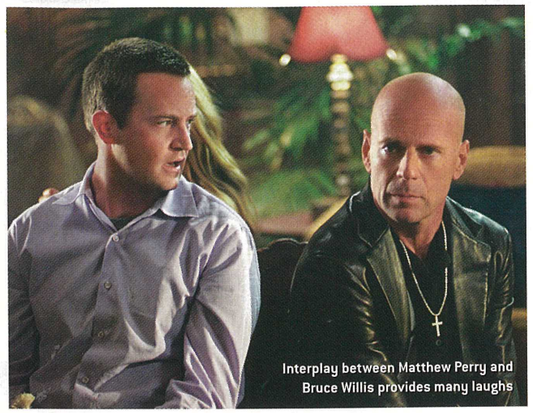
AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 22

Director: Howard Deutch

Stars: Bruce Willis, Matthew Perry, Natasha Henstridge

Duration: 99 minutes

Website: http://thewholetenyards.warnerbros.com/

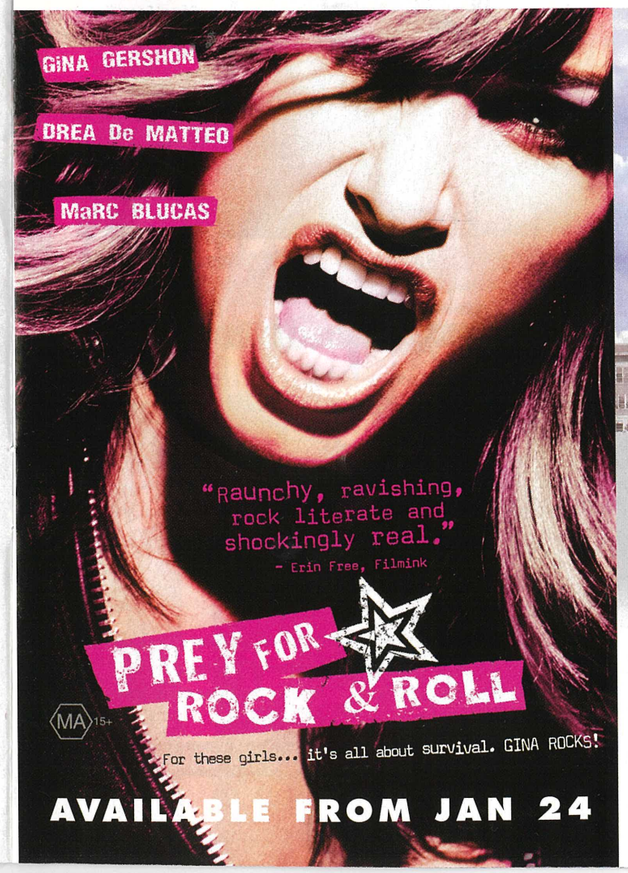


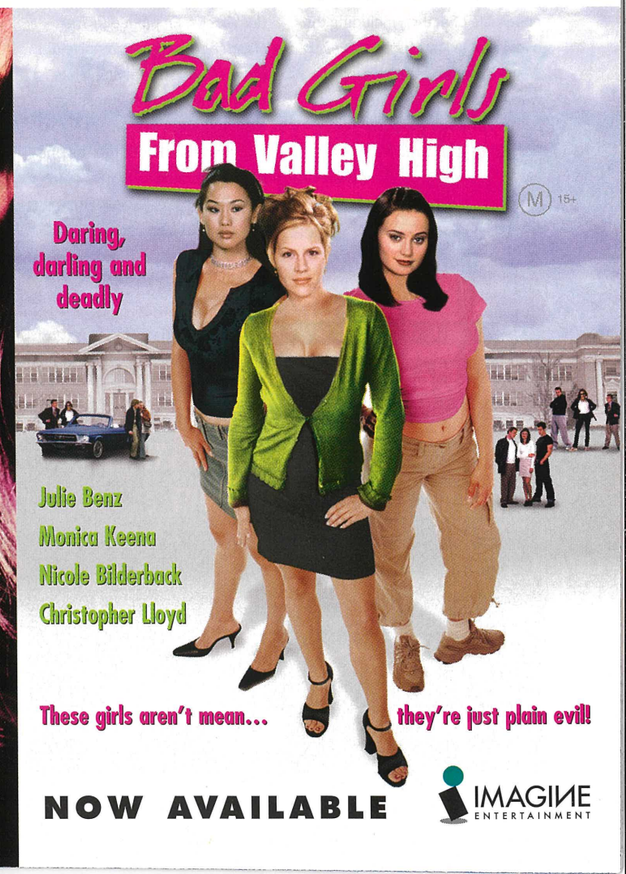
Interplay between Matthew Perry and Bruce Willis provides many laughs

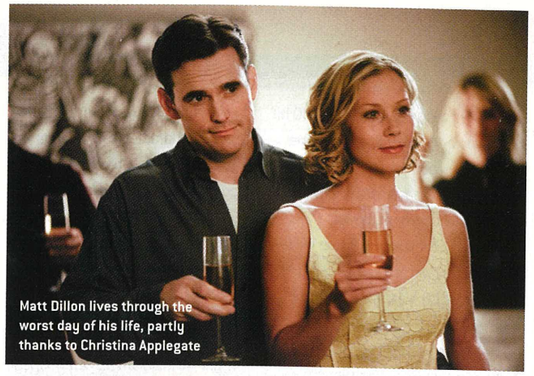
So, this is the sequel to the 2000 hit *The Whole Nine Yards* and, for the metrically-minded, you're getting almost a whole metre's worth of extra entertainment. Which includes the following: Bruce Willis gamely playing upon his image by sporting an apron and slippers; Matthew Perry being neurotic and falling over; and a Hungarian grandmother with a flatulence problem. It's a pretty silly comedy, in other words, and a pretty funny one at that. The plot sees Willis' one-time hitman trying to see out his retirement in suburbia – until Perry's wife Cynthia (Natasha Henstridge) gets kidnapped by a bunch of Eastern Europeans and Willis is forced to dust off that pistol. It's the interplay between Perry – agitated, anxious and not unlike a certain character from *Friends* – and the dry-as-a-bone Willis that provides most of the laughs. Especially when they inadvertently end up in bed together!

INSIDER

In the scene in which the two male leads share a bed, Bruce Willis was naked. Matthew Perry was to afraid to ask why!






Matt Dillon lives through the worst day of his life, partly thanks to Christina Applegate

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

MA15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 23

Director: Mitch Rouse

Stars: Matt Dillon, Christina Applegate, Steve Zahn

Duration: 94 minutes

Premiering at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, this pitch black comedy features an impressive ensemble of actors, including the ever-reliable Matt Dillon as David Wells, a chump experiencing the worst day of his life. Cheated on by his fiancée (Christina Applegate) and fired from his dream job, Well's existence is further complicated by a bank robbery and a best friend (Steve Zahn) clearly intent on making matters worse. Sound confusing? Well, it is. Featuring a series of flashbacks, *Employee Of The Month* becomes progressively more convoluted, all the while drumming home the message that nothing is ever as it seems. Intrigued? Stick it out to the end and all will be revealed!

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

TAIS TOI!

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 22

Director: Francis Veber

Stars: Gérard Depardieu, Jean Reno, Jean-Pierre Malo,

Duration: 87 minutes

Website: http://www.taistoi-lefilm.com/flash/index.html

In this opposites-attract-buddy caper, the relationship between the hapless chatterbox Quentin (Gérard Depardieu) and violent crim Ruby (Jean Reno) takes centre stage as the unlikely couple find themselves sharing a cell in custody. Quentin is keen to befriend his cell mate, but Ruby refuses to be engaged by the mindless chatter. Nevertheless, an escape plan is hatched, and the unlikely pair set off on a course of increasingly over-the-top escapades as they run from the authorities and a vengeful baddie. The performances of Depardieu and Reno are pitch-perfect as the happy-go-lucky buffoon and brooding criminal, respectively. *Tais Toi!* (meaning 'shut up!' in French) is a cleverly-crafted and richly satisfying film with plenty of madcap moments and laugh-out-loud silly bits.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

Gérard Depardieu and Jean Reno on a course of over-the-top escapades

ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 16

Director: Michel Gondry

Stars: Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, Tom Wilkinson, Elijah Wood, Kirsten Dunst, Mark Ruffalo

Duration: 103 minutes

Website: http://www.lacunainc.com

Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet attempt to erase memories of each other

Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind is the latest mind-bending creation from kooky screenwriter Charlie Kaufman (*Being John Malkovich* and *Adaptation*). Jim Carrey plays sad-sack Joel, whose relationship with girlfriend Clementine (played by a vivacious Kate Winslet) has suddenly unravelled. Clementine undergoes a process by which Joel is deleted from her memory. He, in turn, decides to do the same thing, and much of the film takes place inside his jarring and fragmented brain. But the erasure is less than successful. Critics agree that *Eternal Sunshine* contains career-best performances from the talented triumvirate of Carrey, Winslet and Kirsten Dunst, who plays a hyperactive receptionist. It's worth seeing for these performances alone.

INSIDER

Before Jim Carrey expressed interest in playing Joel, Nicolas Cage was considered for the role.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

MA15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 22

Director: Luke Greenfield

Stars: Emile Hirsch, Elisha Cuthbert

Duration: 104 minutes

Website: http://www.thegirlnextdoormovie.com

Emile Hirsch ogles girl-next-door Elisha Cuthbert

The Girl Next Door boasts a plot quite brilliant in its simplicity: a strait-laced student, Matthew (Emile Hirsch), falls in love with his new neighbour Danielle (Elisha Cuthbert of TV's *24*) who turns out to be – wait for it – a former porn star! Cue, major kudos from Matthew's mates and more than the odd awkward moment with his parents. It's every teenaged boy's dream, after all, but things become somewhat complicated when Danielle is persuaded to return to her former industry. This is a rather racy romantic comedy (check the rating!), but it has also got a real heart as Danielle encourages Matthew to transcend his uptight upbringing. A well-written script and smart direction go some way to providing insight into the varying attitudes towards pornography and sex. Matthew's mates add some *American Pie*-inspired laughs to proceedings too, and of course there's sex. Of the delightfully gratuitous kind.

INSIDER

Originally, high-profile adult movie stars Jenna Jameson and Brianna Banks were slated to appear in the movie.

DVD VIDEO SPECIAL FEATURES

- *Feature length text commentary*
- *Featurettes*
- *Sixteen deleted scenes*

THE NEW COMEDY FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DINNER GAME AND THE CLOSET

JEAN RENO (THE PROFESSIONAL, THE BIG BLUE)

GERARD DEPARDIEU (THE CLOSET, CYRANO DE BERGERAC)

TAIS TOI! (Ruby & Quentin) M 15+

"IRRESISTIBLY MAD...A LOT OF FUN ....FILM COMEDY IS ALIVE AND WELL!" THE AGE

Available to rent on DVD and VHS Dec 22 2004

SHARMILL FILMS MADMAN CINEMA

Distributed by THE AV CHANNEL

KING ARTHUR

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 1

Director: Antoine Fuqua

Stars: Clive Owen, Keira Knightley

Duration: 126 minutes

Website: http://kingarthur.movies.go.com/main.html

King Arthur comprises battles, beards and close-ups of Keira Knightley

There's no Lady of the Lake, no pulling swords out of stone and no flying giblets in this excellent retelling of the famous King Arthur legend. Rather, director Antoine Fuqua has gone for the gritty realism of historical accuracy – a sword-and-sorcery epic without the sorcery bit, if you will. What this means, in effect, is you get battles, beards and lots of close-ups of Keira Knightley (as the lovely Guinevere). All good stuff and Clive Owen, as Arthur, is particularly heroic as he chops his way through various barbarians of Dark Ages Britain.

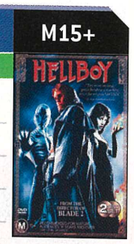
DVD VIDEO SPECIAL FEATURES

- Deleted scenes
- Alternate ending
- Producer Jerry Bruckheimer's personal photo gallery

HELLBOY

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 8



Director: Guillermo del Toro

Stars: Ron Perlman, John Hurt, Selma Blair

Duration: 116 minutes

Website: http://www.hellboymovie.com

Spiderman, Superman, Batman... the classic comic book heroes have provided inspiration for many a good movie over the years, but couldn't we use a new hero? Enter Hellboy! Brought into the world as a baby demon by Nazi occultists in 1944, Hellboy (Ron Perlman) was adopted by Professor Broom (John Hurt) and raised to help humanity. Now working for the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defence, he discovers that some old enemies are still around. Packed with enough ideas and visual flair for three movies (luckily, there is a sequel in planning), creator Mike Mignola and director Guillermo del Toro have delivered a bold, fresh start for the superhero genre.

INSIDER

Comic artist Mike Mignola (*Hellboy*'s creator) and director Guillermo del Toro had both decided independently that Ron Perlman was the perfect actor for the role.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

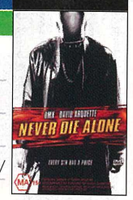
Director Guillermo del Toro delivers a brand new superhero

Rapper DMX is druglord King David

NEVER DIE ALONE

MA15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 22



Director: Ernest R Dickerson

Stars: DMX, David Arquette

Duration: 84 minutes

Website: http://www2.foxsearchlight.com/neverdiealone/

Based on the cult novel by 'Ghetto Shakespeare' Donald Goines (who was eventually shot to death), this superb gangster morality drama (think *Scarface* rather than, say, *Romeo Must Die*) tells the rise and fall of druglord King David. The King is dead, and his story is told in a series of decade-hopping flashbacks, which mostly involve:
a) extreme abuse of women;
b) extreme violence; and
c) both together.

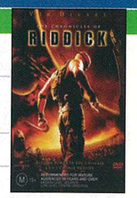
He's a cold, hard criminal, but – as portrayed by rapper DMX – one that it is impossible to take your eyes off. His final moments are spent with would-be writer Paul (David Arquette), to whom he bequeaths his full estate. This includes full audio-taped tales of the violence and retribution that half-preacher, half-Satan King David has spawned his life. The cycle of which has finally caught him.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 8

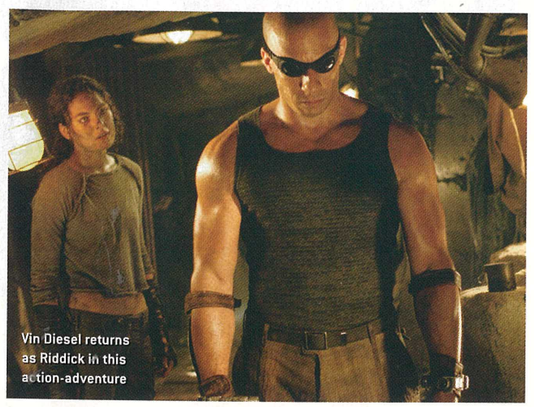


Director: David Twohy

Stars: Vin Diesel, Thandie Newton, Karl Urban, Judi Dench

Duration: 114 minutes

Website: http://www.thechroniclesofriddick.com



Vin Diesel returns as Riddick in this action-adventure

Coming from a background in screenwriting (*GI Jane*, *Waterworld*), director David Twohy delivered a surprise success in 2000 with *Pitch Black*, a stylish, FX-heavy horror/sci-fi that also propelled Vin Diesel, in the central role of Riddick, quite a way up the Hollywood ladder. Given a budget of over $US100 million for the sequel *The Chronicles Of Riddick*, Twohy has gone all-out to bring his alternate universe to eye-popping life. Riddick is now alone and on the run, pursued everywhere by "mercs" (bounty-hunters), and although his brilliant combat skills have saved his skin so far, he will be tested to the limit against the Necromongers, a fearsome race who roam the galaxies, recruiting "converts" and killing those who refuse to join them. Merging influences from *Star Wars* to *Lord Of The Rings*, this is as much a vivid fantasy as an action-adventure; every scene crammed full with metal, grime and fire.

INSIDER

It was Vin Diesel who insisted on the casting of Dame Judi Dench in the role of Aereon.

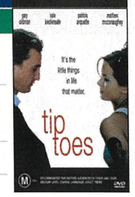
DVD VIDEO SPECIAL FEATURES

- Visual effects revealed
- Interactive 360° view of sets with Vin Diesel guided tour
- Riddick insider

TIP TOES

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 22



Director: Matthew Bright

Stars: Gary Oldman, Matthew McConaughey, Kate Beckinsale, Patricia Arquette

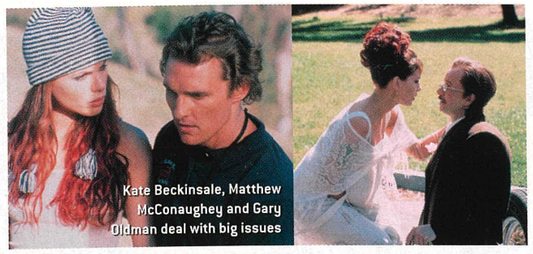
Duration: 87 minutes

Steven (Matthew McConaughey) and his girlfriend Carol (Kate Beckinsale) may well be the perfect couple. They're madly in love – so when Carol falls pregnant, it should be cause for celebration, right? Hold the champagne – there is one 'little' problem. Steven has neglected to tell Carol that he actually comes from a family of dwarves. Steven's parents, and his twin brother Rolfe (Gary Oldman, in a scene-stealing role) are all, in PC terms, 'vertically challenged', which means the unborn child might be too. This complex situation opens up an emotional minefield which must, as the title suggests, be tiptoed through. A thought-provoking film, with an important moral lesson at its not inconsiderable heart.

INSIDER

Gary Oldman is 5' 10". To look like a dwarf, he is actually walking on his knees, although in some scenes his lower legs were digitally removed.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE



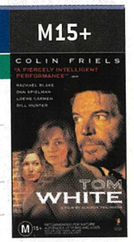
Kate Beckinsale, Matthew McConaughey and Gary Oldman deal with big issues

Colin Friels as Tom White slides quietly off the rails

TOM WHITE

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 22



Director: Alkinos Tsilimidos

Stars: Colin Friels, Rachael Blake, Dan Spielman, Loene Carmen

Duration: 110 minutes

Though the homeless are visible in every city, for most of us it's impossible to imagine the process of slipping into such a difficult life. As a married, middle-class professional, Tom White (Colin Friels) probably once thought that way too, but when we meet him, Tom is sliding quietly off the rails. Unable to cope with family life, he disappears into the urban underworld, where he encounters a parade of others living in the shadows. Digging deep to explore the question of how people can simply lose their way in life, *Tom White* is one of the finest Australian films for 2004.

INSIDER

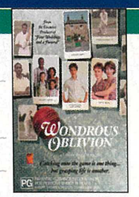
Colin Friels was the only actor who received the whole script, so other actors could approach the Tom White character with no knowledge of his history.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

WONDROUS OBLIVION

PG

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 15



Director: Paul Morrison

Stars: Delroy Lindo, Emily Woof, Sam Smith, Stanley Townsend

Duration: 101 minutes

Sam Smith as David learns cricket from his Jamaican neighbours

On the surface, this looks like a film about cricket, and there are certainly plenty of pans across private school ovals and backyard nets. But *Wondrous Oblivion* goes beyond the crease. Taking us to the far-from-swinging London of 1960, 10-year-old Jewish cricket buff David (Sam Smith) has already learned much about prejudice when he meets his new Jamaican neighbours. Cautious at first, he soon befriends them. In doing so, his game improves immeasurably and he moves up the ranks at his posh school. David's German-refugee mother and father, meanwhile, are also affected by the raucous, reggae-loving people next door, in some unexpectedly heart-warming ways.

INSIDER

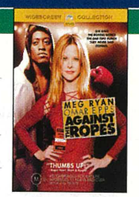
The title comes from a sarcastic remark made to David by a schoolmaster, about his day-dreaming tendencies and obliviousness to his own lack of cricketing ability.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

AGAINST THE ROPES

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 23



Director: Charles Dutton

Stars: Meg Ryan, Omar Epps, Tony Shalhoub, Charles Dutton

Duration: 106 minutes

Website: http://www.againstheropes.com

Director Charles Dutton doubles as a veteran trainer alongside Meg Ryan

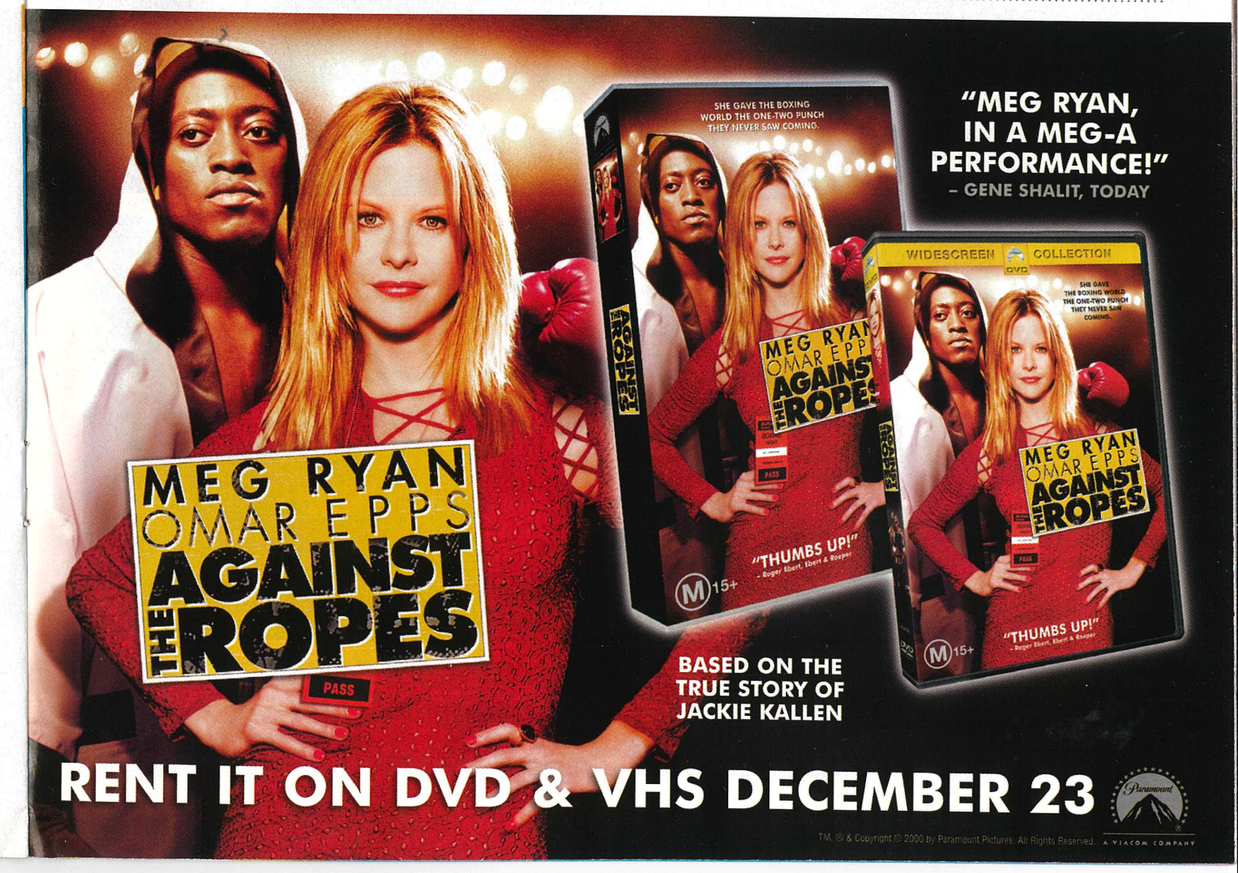
Eager to extend her range beyond the romantic comedies for which she is most famous, Meg Ryan raised some eyebrows with last year's erotic thriller *In The Cut* (by New Zealand director Jane Campion); but she steps into perhaps her oddest role yet in *Against The Ropes*. As Jackie Kallen, the real-life woman who stormed the blokey world of professional boxing and became the most successful female manager ever, Ryan struts around in an amazing range of tight, busty outfits, sparkling with sassy confidence and what the locals call "chutzpah". As the mobster and rival who challenges Kallen to step up from publicist to the "real game" of management, Tony Shalhoub (from TV's *Monk*) has a fine steely-eyed menace. But it's Omar Epps (*The Mod Squad*) who really commands our attention as "Lethal" Luther Shaw, the rough diamond Kallen plucks from a life of street crime to groom for boxing stardom.

INSIDER

To prepare for *Against The Ropes*, Meg Ryan took boxing lessons, even though her role is as a manager.

DVD VIDEO SPECIAL FEATURES

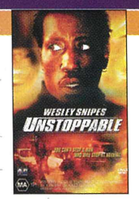
- *Featurette: A ringside seat*
- *Featurette: Queen of the ring*
- *Theatrical trailer*



UNSTOPPABLE

MA15+

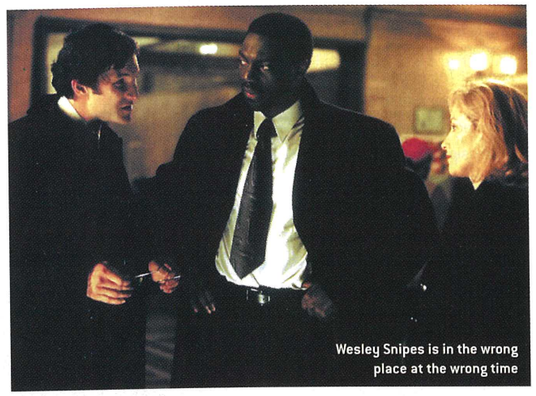
AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 15



Director: David Carson

Stars: Wesley Snipes, Mark Sheppard, Jacqueline Obradors

Duration: 92 minutes


Wesley Snipes is in the wrong place at the wrong time

Emulating such chase films as *The Fugitive*, action-thriller *Unstoppable* stars Wesley Snipes as Dean Cage, a former Special Ops soldier who is haunted by the wartime murder of his best friend. Now a civilian who's in the wrong place at the wrong time, Cage is mistaken for a corrupt FBI agent, and is injected with a mind-controlling hallucinogen that causes flashbacks and makes him susceptible to any suggestion. Cage's military training enables him to escape in an attempt to save himself, despite the tricks his brain is playing with him. Tightly directed, *Unstoppable* is a trippy psychological thriller in which Snipes the action hero comes to the fore. His scenes with Jacqueline Obradors, who plays a police officer who is also Cage's girlfriend and the sister of his dead best friend, are tender and touching.

INSIDER

Wesley Snipes got his first big break in 1987, as a gang leader who threatens Michael Jackson in the music video for 'Bad'.

DVD VIDEO SPECIAL FEATURES

Original widescreen presentation

Bonus movie trailers

FAHRENHEIT 9/11

M15+

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 15

Director: Michael Moore

Stars: Michael Moore, George W. Bush, Khalil bin Laden

Duration: 122 minutes

Website: http://www.fahrenheit911.com

One of the most compelling and controversial documentaries you will see this decade, *Fahrenheit 9/11* is a sobering, sad and shocking account of the Bush administration's handling of terrorism and the Iraqi war. US President George W Bush is the target of Oscar-winning filmmaker Michael Moore's vitriol, as are the Bush dynasty's ties to the extremely wealthy Bin Ladens of Saudi Arabia. There are some truly astonishing scenes, such as when a gold-club-wielding Bush is addressing journalists on a golf course, declaring: "I call upon all nations to do everything they can to stop these terrorist killers. Thank you. Now, watch this drive." Moore said his film (which won the Golden Palm at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival) is targeted at "the 50 per cent of the American people who don't vote – They are the poor, the working class, the single moms, the young people and the African-Americans". As Australians, this documentary is required viewing for each and every one of us.

DVD VIDEO AVAILABLE

Director Michael Moore calls American non-voters to attention

INSIDER

At the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, *Fahrenheit 9/11* was given a standing ovation of between 15 and 25 minutes – thought to be the longest in the festival's history.

LOOKING FOR A FILM RIGHT NOW? THEN CHECK OUT OUR NOVEMBER TITLES, CURRENTLY IN STORE.

OSAMA — M15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 3
A drama recounting the plight of a widowed woman (Zubaida Sahar) who, in desperation, disguises her 12-year-old daughter as a boy and sends her out to work.

ROMASANTA — R18+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 3
Based on a true story, this werewolf horror-fantasy recounts the tale of 19th-century, self-confessed Spanish serial killer Manuel Blanco Romasanta.

SAFE — M15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 3
Produced in the '90s, *Safe* follows the story of Carol (Julianne Moore), a woman who finds herself increasingly unwell and eventually at the mercy of psycho therapy.

SHREK 2 — PG
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 3
Shrek is back. This time the jolly green ogre and his princess bride Fiona are on their honeymoon when meeting a feline-ogre hunter Puss In Boots (voiced by Antonio Banderas).

RAISING HELEN — PG
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 10
In this cutesy, coming-of-age film, Helen's (Kate Hudson) hedonistic lifestyle is compromised when her sister and brother-in-law die, leaving her guardian of their three kids.

SUPER SIZE ME — M15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 10
Follow Morgan Spurlock's self-imposed challenge to live on McDonald's food for 30 days straight. Controversial, startling and often hilarious viewing.

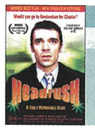
THUNDERSTRUCK — M15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 10
Four musicians make a pact, which some 12 years later must be fulfilled. Bursting with larrikin humour and excellent music, the scene is then set for a Great Aussie Road Trip.

ELF — G
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 11
As Buddy (Will Ferrell) grows up in the North Pole, he realises he was adopted as a baby by Santa and his elves. Wanting to find his real father, he heads to New York City.

MEAN GIRLS — M15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 11
Being a 16-year-old girl is tough, but when you've lived in Africa and been home-schooled, it's even tougher. Cady Heron (Lindsay Lohan) quickly learns to mix with the "cool" girls.

SPIDER-MAN 2 — M15+
AVAILABLE:NOVEMBER 17
Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) finds that life as Spider-Man isn't all that its cracked up to be when it affects his social life and burgeoning love for Mary-Jane (Kirsten Dunst).

CLUB DREAD — MA15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 24
It's non-stop partying on the island of rockstar has-been Coconut Pete (Bill Paxton). But things go pear-shaped when someone starts slicing up all the holidaymakers.



HEADRUSH — MA15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 24
An hilarious Irish romp that follows no-hopers Charlie (Wuzza Conlon) and T-Bag (Gavin Kelty) as they attempt to make their fortune doing a drug run to Amsterdam.

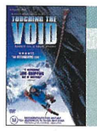
I, ROBOT — M15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 24
A classic sci-fi thriller set in 2035, a time when domestic robots and humans live in harmony. But that soon changes when a robotic inventor is found dead.

NEW YORK MINUTE — PG
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 24
A fun and furiously fast-paced teen-adventure comedy, Olsen twins – Mary-Kate and Ashley – give us a taste of life in New York.

SNIPER 3 — MA15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 24
An engaging action-thriller, the story of Thomas Beckett (Tom Berenger) continues as the military sniper is hired to kill a suspected terrorist, who happens to be a friend.

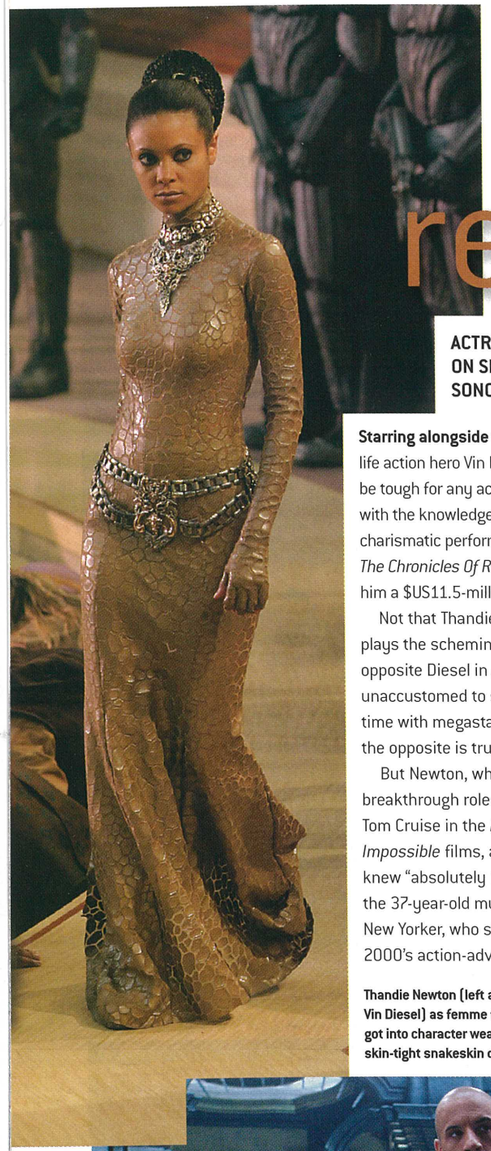
STEAL — M15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 24
Slim (Stephen Dorff) is the leader of a gang of thieves who play out their crimes via every extreme stunt in the book: rollerblading from one heist and base jumping into the next.

THE PRINCE & ME — PG
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 24
A Hollywood fairytale with more than a hint of reality, Prince Edvard (Luke Mably) of Denmark goes to Wisconsin University where he finds the love of his life (Julia Stiles).



TOUCHING THE VOID — M15+
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 24
Part documentary and part movie, this real-life story of young British mountaineers Joe Simpson and Simon Yates is an astonishing and unforgettable film.

CONNIE AND CARLA — PG
AVAILABLE: NOVEMBER 25
Two down-on-their-luck entertainers Connie (Nia Vardalos) and Carla (Toni Collette) witness a mob hit and flee to LA where they masquerade as drag queens.



Riddick returns

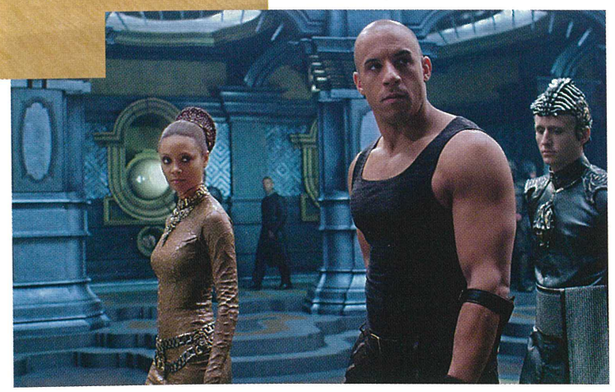
ACTRESS THANDIE NEWTON DISCUSSES LIFE ON SET WITH THE LARGER-THAN-LIFE ACTOR, SONOROUS VIN DIESEL.

Starring alongside the larger-than-life action hero Vin Diesel would be tough for any actor, especially with the knowledge that the charismatic performer's latest film *The Chronicles Of Riddick* earned him a $US11.5-million pay cheque.

Not that Thandie Newton, who plays the scheming Dame Vaako opposite Diesel in *Riddick*, is unaccustomed to sharing screen time with megastars – rather, the opposite is true.

But Newton, whose breakthrough roles were opposite Tom Cruise in the *Mission: Impossible* films, admitted she knew "absolutely nothing" about the 37-year-old muscle-bound New Yorker, who shot to fame in 2000's action-adventure film *xXx*.

Thandie Newton (left and below opposite Vin Diesel) as femme fatale Dame Vaako got into character wearing an array of skin-tight snakeskin dresses.



"I was a little intimidated because unlike other actors he is such a personality on screen," said Newton, who was born in Zambia 32 years ago to a Zimbabwean mother and a British father.

"I was expecting a very brooding, slightly angry person. I was a little nervous of meeting Vin because I didn't know if we would have anything to say to each other."

That was not, as it turned out, a problem. Newton first met the actor at the house at which he was staying during *Riddick*'s two-month shoot on location in Vancouver, and he instantly put her at ease.

"He was standing at the end of the room with his arms open, and I swear to God, I am not a big 'bang it all out there and make friends with everybody', but he is just so warm and easy with himself and encouraging and such a kind, lovely, lovely person," Newton said.

"It was the most surprised that I have ever been meeting anybody. We had so much in common."

They differed, however, on the way in which they spent time in their trailers between shooting scenes for a special-effects-laden movie that centres on the hunted fugitive Riddick, the enigmatic anti-hero first played by Diesel in the cult film *Pitch Black* (which was filmed in Australia).

"The man is obsessed!" Newton said. "I went into his trailer and he had blacked out his entire trailer, the only lights were red lights, and he just stayed in that hole in between shooting, just to stay in the zone. My trailer was just like a play room for my kid."

On set and in front of the cameras, Newton was transformed into a slithering, serpent-like Lady Macbeth-style character.

In a review from the urbancinefile website, one reviewer commented that the best line of the film is when Riddick slowly sniffs around the curvaceous form of Dame Vaako and utters the words: "It's been a long time since I smelt beautiful."

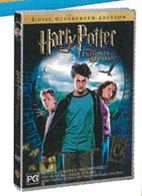
Newton said the assortment of skin-tight snakeskin dresses, in which her conniving character is clad, helped to make her job simple.

"It was very easy (to be a femme fatale) in those costumes!" she explained.

"Twenty costume fittings later, I knew exactly who she was and exactly what I had to do. All that stuff says a lot about who she is, about her serpent quality... To have something fragile be so evil, so it was fun to play with all of that. My job really was just to go along with it all, as opposed to playing against it. It was fun."

kids' corner

HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN COMPETITION

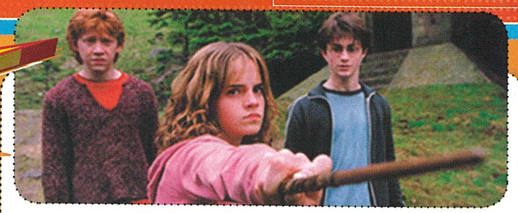


Win one of 10 *Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban* prize packs comprising the three *Harry Potter* titles on DVD, a *Harry Potter* pencil tin and *Harry Potter* scrap book. To go in the draw to win, tell us in 25 words or less:

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE SCENE IN A HARRY POTTER FILM SO FAR, AND WHY?

Send your entries to:
HARRY POTTER COMPETITION
Text Pacific
Level 2, 171 Latrobe Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

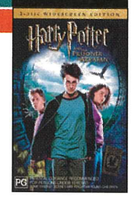
Entries close December 30, 2004 and will be drawn January 5, 2005



HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

PG

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 1



Director: Alfonso Cuarón

Stars: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint

Duration: 135 minutes

Website: http://harrypotter.warnerbros.com/main/homepage/intro.html

With the worldwide success of JK Rowling's *Harry Potter* books, it is hardly surprising that the films have followed suit in popularity. There was much excitement and expectation surrounding the first two films, and under new director Alfonso Cuarón, the third instalment, *Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban*, is no exception. As usual, the film commences with Harry's (Daniel Radcliffe) enforced confinement during the holidays in the home of his unfortunate relatives. But before long, he is back at Hogwarts and reunited with friends Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson), and up to their old wizardly tricks. This time around, however, the trio must watch out for evil wizard Sirius Black (played by an unrecognisable Gary Oldman), who has escaped from the prison at Azkaban and is headed their way. A swag of new actors, combined with some truly enchanting scenes, provides great entertainment.

DVD SPECIAL FEATURES

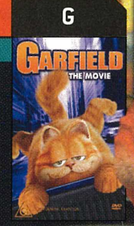
- *Never-before-seen footage*
- *Interview with JK Rowling*
- *Three interactive challenges*
- *Meet the animal trainers*

Last month's answer: Happily Ever After

GARFIELD: THE MOVIE

G

AVAILABLE: DECEMBER 13



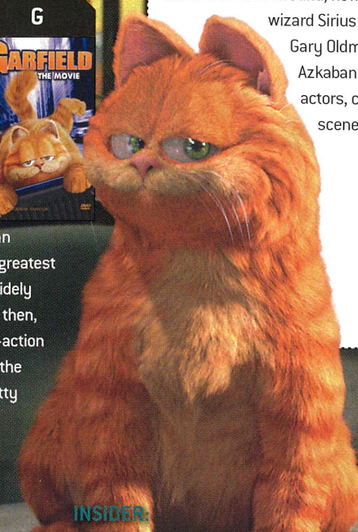
Director: Peter Hewitt

Stars: Breckin Meyer, Jennifer Love Hewitt

Duration: 77 minutes

Website: http://www.garfieldmovie.com/

Jim Davis' famous comic strip Garfield first graced American newspapers in 1978. It won many awards, but perhaps its greatest feat was to beat Charles M Schulz's Peanuts as the most widely read and financially successful strip in history. It is fitting, then, that Garfield receives the big-screen treatment. In this live-action movie, director Peter Hewitt takes us on the adventures of the lazy moggy (wonderfully voiced by Bill Murray). Life is pretty good for Garfield, until owner Jon (Breckin Meyer) agrees to take on a dog, Odie. A "tick magnet" who, as Garfield exclaims, is a "splattered bug on the windshield of my life", Odie's presence disrupts Garfield's very comfortable existence. Impressive animation (perfectly capturing the characteristics of the fat feline) and the use of eminently suitable voices to portray Garfield's cohorts, make this an enjoyable watch for kids and parents alike.



INSIDER:
Jim Davis, who created the original Garfield comic strip, appears (uncredited) in the film as a drunken conventioneer.

DVD SPECIAL FEATURES

- *Deleted scenes reel*
- *Two featurettes*
- *Audio commentary*

Conditions of Entry. 1. This is a game of skill. Information on "how to enter" and prizes form part of conditions of entry. 2. Entry is open to all residents of Australia except employees and immediate families of the promoter, associated companies and agencies. The promoter is Text Pacific, Level 2, 171 Latrobe Street, Melbourne 3000. 3. The competition commences on 1/12/04 at 9am and closes on 30/12/04 at 5pm. The winners will be the entries selected, having regard to skill and originality, at the promoter's premises on 5/01/05 at 9am. 4. The prize for the Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban giveaway is 10 x gift packs comprising the Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban DVD, Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets DVD, Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone DVD, a Harry Potter pencil tin and Harry Potter scrapbook, valued at $114.75 each. Total value is $1147.50. All prize values as at 25/10/04. Prizes are not transferable or redeemable for cash. 5. Entrants must answer the relevant question in 25 words or less. Winners will be notified by mail. 6. The judge's decision in relation to any aspect of the competition is final and binding on each person who enters. Chance plays no part in determining the winner. No correspondence will be entered into. 7. Entries remain the property of Text Pacific and cannot be returned. The entries may be entered into a database for future promotional, marketing or publicity purposes, subject to the law of privacy. The promoter reserves the right to publish photographs of winners. 8. The promoter shall not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever suffered. Any change in value of the prize occurring between the publishing date and the date the prize is claimed is not the responsibility of the promoter.

MURIEL'S WEDDING — M

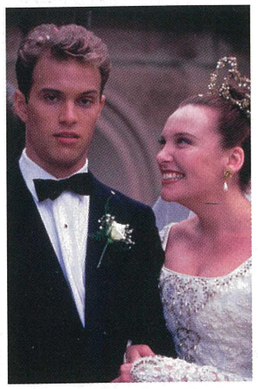
1994

Director: PJ Hogan

Stars: Toni Collette, Rachel Griffiths, Bill Hunter

Duration: 101 minutes

It's hard to believe that it was a decade ago that an ABBA-worshipping girl from Porpoise Spit called Muriel (Toni Collette, who gained for the role 40 pounds in seven weeks) waltzed down the aisle and into our hearts. This masterpiece was the springboard for then-up-and-coming actors Collette and Rachel Griffiths, who dazzle with their deliveries of writer-director Hogan's sparkling screenplay. At the time of release it was a breath of fresh air; today it's as charming as ever.



DVD SPECIAL FEATURES

- *CD Soundtrack as a separate disc*
- *Audio commentary by PJ Hogan and Toni Collette*
- *Live interview with Rachel Griffiths on ABC's* Enough Rope

FLIRTING WITH DISASTER — M

1996

Director: David O Russell

Stars: Ben Stiller, Patricia Arquette, Téa Leoni

Duration: 89 minutes

Dysfunctional families don't come more endearing than Mel Coplin's. Ben Stiller is wonderful as Mel, a man who goes on a road trip with his wife (Patricia Arquette), baby and adoption case worker (Téa Leoni) in search of his biological parents. With supporting roles from Alan Alda, Mary Tyler Moore, George Segal and Lily Tomlin, *Flirting With Disaster* is a truly original satire so sharp it scars. There is an hilariously excruciating drug-addled dinner-table scene that will linger long after the end credits have rolled.

DVD SPECIAL FEATURES

- *Deleted scenes*
- *Mistakes*

ROMAN HOLIDAY — G

1953

Director: William Wyler

Stars: Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn, Eddie Albert

Duration: 118 minutes

This black-and-white romantic comedy was the breakthrough role for the luminous Audrey Hepburn, made eight years before she starred in *Breakfast At Tiffany's*. Here, Hepburn plays Ann, a sheltered teenaged princess who escapes while on vacation in Italy and spends the day with Joe Bradley (Gregory Peck), a reporter looking for an exclusive story. *Roman Holiday* won Hepburn an Academy Award and also took out Oscars for Best Costume Design and Best Writing for a Motion Picture. However, as writer Dalton Trumbo was blacklisted as one of the Hollywood Ten, he did not receive credit for the screenplay. Instead, his friend Ian McLellan Hunter took credit and accepted the Oscar.

DVD SPECIAL FEATURES

- *Collector's booklet with interesting facts and stories about the making of the film.*

LOVE STORY — PG

1970

Director: Arthur Hiller

Stars: Ali MacGraw, Ryan O'Neil, Ray Milland

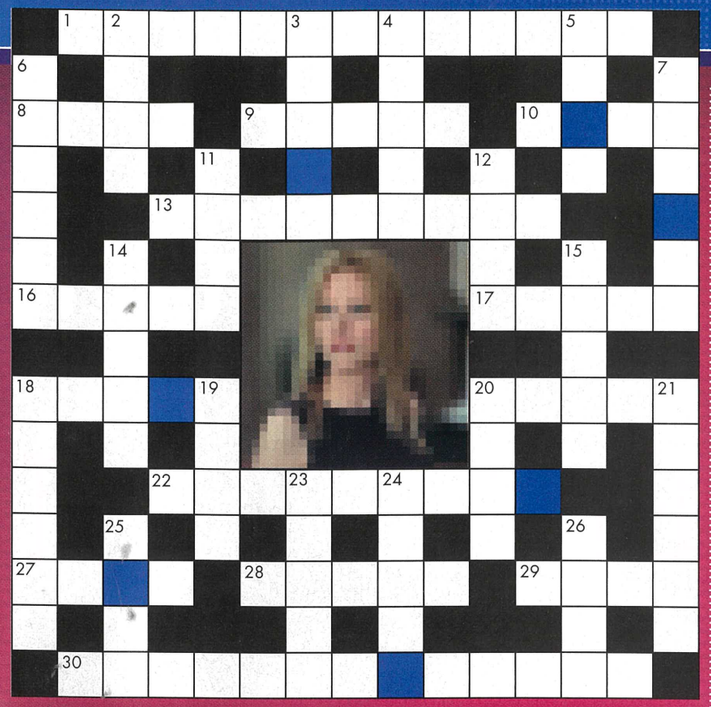
Duration: 99 minutes

The movie that launched a million tears and inspired the naming of a million baby girls called Jennifer, *Love Story* is a classic romantic drama that goes straight for the heartstrings. Ryan O'Neil and Ali MacGraw star as young lovers Oliver and Jennifer. Propped up by powerful performances from the leads, this is a detail-rich look into the lives of young Harvard University students whose love is ripped apart by tragedy. Author Erich Segal wrote the screenplay first, then adapted it into a novel, which was published before the film's release and became a runaway seller.

DVD SPECIAL FEATURES

- *Collector's booklet with interesting facts and stories about the making of the film.*

HOW MANY FILMS HAVE YOU SEEN LATELY? MATCH WITS WITH OUR QUIZ MASTER AND SEE IF YOU CAN SPELL OUT THE STAR IN THE CROSSWORD.



across

1 New Nicole Kidman comedy release starring Glenn Close and Christopher Walken, *The* ... (8,5)
8 11 down plays the lead role in this film about a famous writer (4)
9 Emilio Estevez's brother, Charlie ... (5)
10 Boxing drama *Against The Ropes* starring Meg Ryan and ... Epps (4)
13 Matt Damon returns to star in the action-thriller sequel, *The Bourne* ... (9)
16 Aussie actress who starred in *The Ring* and *Le Divorce*, ... Watts (5)
17 Standout drama *Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind* stars Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet and Kirsten ... (5)
18 Controversial filmmaker of this month's doco release, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Michael ... (5)
20 Colin Friels stars as the titular character in this new quality Aussie drama *Tom* ... (5)
22 Actress Keira ... stars with Clive Owen in this month's action-drama *King Arthur* (9)
27 UK actor ... Rickman returns in *Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban* (4)
28 1992 thriller starring Kim Basinger, Uma Thurman and Richard Gere, ... *Analysis* (5)
29 Fantasy-adventure film by Tim Burton starring Ewan McGregor, *Big* ... (4)
30 Comedy sequel starring Bruce Willis and Matthew Perry, *The* ... (5,3,5)

down

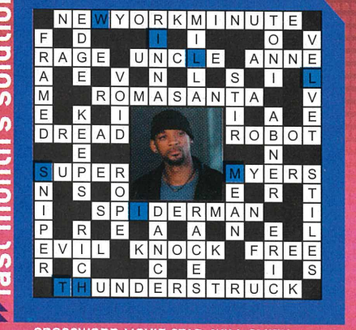
2 French crime-comedy starring Gérard Depardieu and Jean Reno, ...*Toi!* (4)
3 1996 debut feature by Emma-Kate Croghan, *Love And* ... *Catastrophes* (5)
4 Jared Leto and Jennifer Connolly star in the disturbing *Requiem For A* ... (5)
5 Actress who plays Hermione Granger in the *Harry Potter* films, ... Watson (4)
6 Matt ... stars with Christina Applegate in the new comedy *Employee Of The Month* (6)
7 Stephen Fry directed this 2003 film based on an Evelyn Waugh novel, ... *Young Things* (6)
11 This month's action-adventure *The Chronicles Of Riddick* stars Vin Diesel and ... Dench (4)
12 1998 film based on the Irvine Welsh novel of the same name, *The* ... *House* (4)
14 Will Smith stars in this sci-fi thriller *I*, ... (5)
15 Actress who starred in *Green Card* and *Groundhog Day*, ... MacDowell (5)
18 Comedian Bill ... lends his voice to the fat, orange, feline Garfield (6)
19 Barry Humphries' alter ego, Dame ... Everage (4)
20 1997 teen romantic comedy starring Keri Russell, *Eight Days A* ... (4)
21 This month's romantic comedy *The Girl Next Door* stars ... Cuthbert (6)
23 Actor who plays red-haired Hogwarts student Ron Weasley, Rupert ... (5)
24 Famous American author who wrote *Huckleberry Finn*, Mark ... (5)
25 Classic 1946 movie starring Olivia de Havilland, *To* ... *His Own* (4)
26 Crime-thriller starring Neve Campbell and Denise Richards, ... *Things* (4)

quickquiz

Test your movie knowledge with these 10 questions – and no cheating!

1. In what year did director Michael Moore (*Fahrenheit 9/11*) win an Academy Award for his documentary *Bowling For Columbine*?
2. What was Keira Knightley's (*King Arthur*) first high-profile role?
3. Which Australian actress starred opposite Vin Diesel (*The Chronicles Of Riddick*) in the cult movie *Pitch Black*?
4. Name three films starring Matt Damon (*The Bourne Supremacy*) starting with the letter 's'.
5. Who played Nicole Kidman's character Joanna Eberhart in the 1975 original of *The Stepford Wives*?
6. Name the three children of Bruce Willis (*The Whole Ten Yards*) and Demi Moore.
7. Name the Jane Campion film in which Kate Winslet (*Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind*) plays an Australian.
8. What was the name of Jennifer Love Hewitt's (*Garfield: The Movie*) character in the hit TV series *Part Of Five*?
9. Rachael Blake (*Tom White*) dates which Australian actor?
10. Ben Affleck (*Jersey Girl*) has appeared in all except one of director Kevin Smith's films. Which one?

last month's solution



CROSSWORD MOVIE STAR: WILL SMITH

Answers 1. 2003, **2.** Star Wars: The Phantom Menace as Sabé the queen's decoy, **3.** Radha Mitchell, **4.** School Ties (1992), Saving Private Ryan (1998), Stuck On You (2003), **5.** Katharine Ross, **6.** Rumer, Scout and Tallulah, **7.** Holy Smoke (1999), **8.** Sarah Reeves, **9.** Tony Martin, **10.** Clerks (1994).

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KING ARTHUR

Win one of five *King Arthur* prize packs comprising a *King Arthur* DVD – Director's Cut, *King Arthur* organiser, watch, cap, polo shirt and waist bag. To go in the draw to win, tell us in 25 words or less:

KING ARTHUR DREAMED OF CHANGING THE FACE OF HISTORY, WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE DREAM?

Send entries to:
KING ARTHUR COMPETITION
Text Pacific
Level 2, 171 Latrobe Street
Melbourne 3000 Victoria
Entries close December 30, 2004 and will be drawn on January 5, 2005.

GARFIELD: THE MOVIE

Win one of 10 *Garfield: The Movie* prize packs comprising *Garfield: The Movie* DVD and a *Garfield: The Movie* wallet. To go in the draw to win, tell us in 25 words or less:

WHAT IS ONE OF THE STRANGEST THINGS YOU HAVE EVER SEEN YOUR PET, OR YOUR FRIEND'S PET, DO?

Send entries to:
GARFIELD COMPETITION
Text Pacific
Level 2, 171 Latrobe Street
Melbourne 3000 Victoria
Entries close December 30, 2004 and will be drawn on January 5, 2005.

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WHITE CHICKS

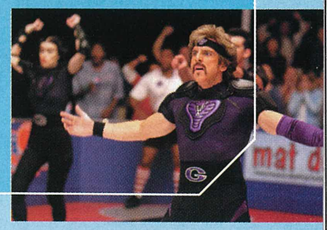
Two black men become two white women in the hilarious new comedy from the creators of *Scary Movie*. Shawn and Marlon Wayans are two unlucky FBI agents who go deep undercover at a Hamptons' resort to investigate a kidnapping ring. But breaking into the society scene is tougher than it looks. Fans of *Sorority Boys* and *Big Momma's House* are bound to enjoy.

SUDDENLY 30

Alias star Jennifer Garner becomes Hollywood's latest sweetheart in this delightful romantic comedy that's fun for movie lovers of any age. Driven by a soundtrack of great '80s hits and Garner's sparkling lead performance, *Suddenly 30* is an absolute winner that will steal the hearts of anyone who loved the films *Jack*, *Big* and *Freaky Friday*.

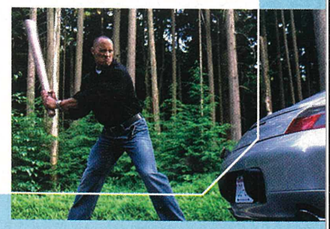
DODGEBALL

The latest comedy from the Ben Stiller stable, *Dodgeball: A True Underdog's Story* portrays how a small local gym, run by Peter De Fleur (Vince Vaughn) is threatened with extinction by a gleaming fitness palace, run by White Goodman (Ben Stiller) unless a group of social rejects can rise to glory in the ultimate dodgeball competition.



WALKING TALL

Chris Vaughn (The Rock) is a retired US Special Forces soldier who has returned to his hometown to renew old relationships and make a new life for himself. But while away, his boyhood town became a dilapidated, crime-ridden shell of itself. Vaughn determines to become sheriff and refuses to back down until it feels like home again.



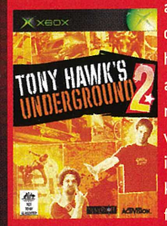
videogames

// ANTHONY HETRIH REVIEWS THE LATEST VIDEO GAMES //

TONY HAWK'S UNDERGROUND 2: WORLD DESTRUCTION TOUR

X-BOX / PS2 / GameCube	1 – 2 Players
Rating	M15+
Graphics	9.0/10
Sound/Music	8.7/10
Gameplay	9.0/10
Total	8.9/10
Learning Curve	15 Mins

T.H.U.G. 2 is a skating adventure that will blow Tony Hawk fans away! This electrifying sequel takes it to the max, with heaps of customisation, including creating skaters, skate parks, graffiti tags and tricks. There are two main modes of play, including an hilarious story mode and hard core classic modes for Tony Hawk veterans. But best of all is the crazy humour that keeps things rolling at a frenzied pace.



STAR WARS: BATTLEFRONT

X-BOX / PS2	1 – 16 Players (using X-BOX Live)
Rating	M15+
Graphics	9.2/10
Sound/Music	8.7/10
Gameplay	8.6/10
Total	8.8/10
Learning Curve	15 Mins

After some intense multi-player action? Then look no further than *Star Wars: Battlefront*. Take part in epic battles, straight from the blockbuster films. You are a soldier and can choose between the Rebels, Imperials, Clone Troopers or Battle Droids. There are different types of soldiers to select and a wide array of weapons and vehicles to check out. *Battlefront* delivers heaps of explosive action and mayhem.

TY THE TASMANIAN TIGER 2: BUSH RESCUE

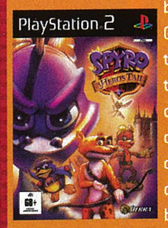
PS2 / X-BOX / GameCube	1 Player
Rating	G8+
Graphics	9.0/10
Sound/Music	8.5/10
Gameplay	8.7/10
Total	8.7/10
Learning Curve	10 Mins

Bigger and better than the original, *TY 2* sees the return of the heroic Tassie Tiger in a totally new adventure. Evil Boss Cass is back and he's building an army of uber reptiles. It's up to players to take control of TY and save the day. Aussie developer KROME has ramped up the action and added vehicles and mechanics into the gameplay. With a fully-fledged Kart Racing game included, this is great family fun.

SPYRO: A HERO'S TAIL

X-BOX / PS2	1 Player
Rating	G
Graphics	9.0/10
Sound/Music	8.5/10
Gameplay	8.6/10
Total	8.7/10
Learning Curve	10 Mins

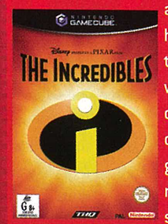
Spyro is back and must save the Dragon Realms. The evil Red Dragon is spreading darkness across the land, transforming the countryside with his nasty Dark Gems. Players help Spyro restore light to his world by destroying the Dark Gems and defeating the Red Dragon. During the game, players take control of five different characters, each offering a unique style of gameplay. Ideal for both young and old.



THE INCREDIBLES

X-BOX / PS2 / GameCube	1 Player
Rating	G8+
Graphics	9.0/10
Sound/Music	8.5/10
Gameplay	8.5/10
Total	8.7/10
Learning Curve	10 Mins

Prepare to squeeze on the red lycra suit and take control of some crazy superheroes. This is an hilarious, action-packed adventure that follows the plot of the smash-hit film. Players do battle with the evil Syndrome and his dastardly henchmen, attempting to foil his plans for world domination. Slick cartoon visuals, solid controls and addictive gameplay make this a must for all wannabe superheroes.



FABLE

X-BOX	1 Player
Rating	M15+
Graphics	9.4/10
Sound/Music	8.9/10
Gameplay	9.0 /10
Total	9.1/10
Learning Curve	20 Mins

Fable is an epic Role Playing Game (RPG). A story of revenge, players take on the role of a young boy whose family has been destroyed. Growing into adulthood (and choosing to be good or evil), all your actions determine how others react to you in the game. This is a legendary adventure.

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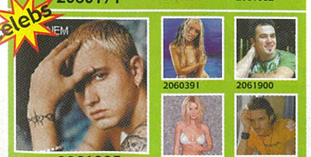

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2090807 Hoobastank – The Reason
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2091103 Nelly – My Place
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2090877 J-Kwon – Tipsy
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2090343 The Chicken Dance
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2090388 Metallica – Enter Sandman V2
2090484 Usher – Yeah
2090344 Cold Chisel – Khe Sanh
2090912 Scribe – Not Many
2090456 Mario Winans – Dont Wanna Know
2090885 C Crows – Accidentally In Love
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2091146 Jo Jo – Leave
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2091314 Guy Sebastian – Out With My Baby
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2091000 Houston – I Like That
2090893 Usher – Confessions Part 2
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2091103 Nelly – My Place
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2090914 Wyclef – Party To Demascus
2090465 Ice Cube – You Can Do It
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2091124 The Streets – Could Well Be In
2090953 Dr Dre – Forgot About Dre

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